

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Bellenie, D Kingham, Y Roder, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), L Parker (District Cllr) and 1 member of the public attended in person and no video link was requested.

PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing was raised.

APOLOGIES: were received and accepted from T Smith and County Cllr James Finch.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1ST MARCH 2023: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Chairman has the Quiet Lane signs to put up and it was agreed to publicise on both the website and the FaceBook page. Everyone thanked S Whitelaw for taking their Election Nomination papers.

UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY, ORGANISATIONS AND WARDENS ON URGENT MATTERS DURING THE RESTRICTIONS BY COVID 19:

Reports were provided from the Village Hall, Footpath Warden, Tree Warden, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

Village Hall Report

S Whitelaw reported on another busy month at the Village Hall. The next Film Night is Saturday 13th May (due to the bank holidays) showing The Banshees of Inisherin. Tickets to be booked in advance and apologies for the card reader not working for payment on the door that weekend. They will have this resolved by the next film. Ladybirds had a very successful but rather muddy Easter Egg hunt after the torrential rain. Easter holidays have now started so a well deserved break for Ladybirds and Cubs. The Community Warm Space will not be held now that the weather has improved, they will advise any changes to this. The Annual Parish meeting was held in the hall in March, lots of positive and interesting updates from our Village Committees. They are a step closer to upgrading the heating system after some unforeseen complications. If you would like to be involved in the running of the hall, they always welcome new faces to the Committee.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith, Tree Warden, was unable to attend and no updates were reported since last month. If you wish to reserve any trees or hedgerow, please contact Trevor Smith on 01206 262760 or at smith.2.trevor@gmail.com

Footpath Warden's Report

There were no developments to report.

Police Report

Crimes reported in January

1 x Violence and sexual offences on or near Wrights Way - Unable to prosecute suspect.

1 x Burglary on or near SBN Golf Club - Investigation complete, no suspect identified

Crimes reported in February

1 x Violence and sexual offences on or near Harrow Street - Under investigation

1 x Other Theft on or near Stoke Road - Under investigation

Village Green Report

Quotes and Designs should now be available and the next stage is for these to be presented to both the Parish Council and residents.

Leavenheath Events Sub-Committee

The second event, the Fun & Games Night, proved to be real success the feedback was way beyond expectations, this will now be an annual event and we are now considering a family Fun and Games Night. The Sub Committee are planning the Big Breakfast, a summer fete on the Village Green on the 17th June and a Snail Race Evening.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed his report was limited due to the pre-election period. He thanked the Parish Council for support during his term and he is standing for re-election. Details of new grants of up to £10,000 can be applied for by Community Groups and he agreed to circulate details to us. This grant can cover the entire cost of the project and maintenance is included. The deadlines are in June, so only a short window of opportunity.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his apologies due to a family matter and there was nothing to report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Babergh District Council had completed their regulation 16 - 6 week consultation. The Examiners Report had been received and the findings accepted by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group and the Parish Council. The Post Examination Decision had been received. Consideration is being given to the best time to hold the Referendum. It was confirmed at last meeting that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will carry full weight between Examination and Referendum.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. The parking issue at Wrights Way discussed at the previous meeting is still on-going and the actions are being followed up. Members agreed to continue to monitor the situation and consider options.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: A further accident has occurred on the bend of Stoke Road. It was agreed to add to the Agenda on the return of our County Councillor. Data is being investigated in relation to this issue in the meantime and when Community Speed Watch is up and running, it is possible that the team could provide feedback.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 3rd April 2023 were £53196.69 in the Community Account and £15533.12 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £68729.81.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 3rd April</u>			
Funds Transfer	839.09	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs

Funds Transfer	843.47	Suffolk County Council	Street Lighting - power & maint.
Funds Transfer	720.00	R H Leggett	Neighbourhood Planning
Funds Transfer	160.00	Compass Point Planning	Neighbourhood Planning
Funds Transfer	140.00	Suffolk Cloud	Website hosting
Funds Transfer	51.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall hire

Leavenheath Events Committee Finance items: A list of payments have been requested by the Events Sub Committee, so it was agreed to add a financial Agenda item to seek approval from the full Parish Council. Unfortunately T Smith was unable to attend the meeting with details, so these are currently awaited. All Financial Decisions are for the full Parish Council to make and it is important to get some good procedures in place as various events are being organised by the sub-committee.

Post for new dog waste bin for Harrow Street: It was agreed in principle to order a post from the same supplier as before and this was delegated to R Bellenie between meetings - **Action R Bellenie**. The Invoice should be made out to Leavenheath Parish Council and emailed to the Clerk in the usual way.

Village Hall Legal Costs: It was noted new documents would be required for the Village Hall as a Village asset. The important thing is to retain the Village Hall for the benefit of the Village. A Charity is in place which is managed by the Village Hall Management Committee. The Parish Council agreed that they would agree to be responsible should the Village Hall Management Committee fold in the future. A quote for the legal work is still awaited.

Annual Playground Inspection fee: The Chairman explained this was paid and we have since been chased for a further payment. It seems the Invoice may have been duplicated in error and we were satisfied we have discharged our responsibility. The situation has been explained to the contractor.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: Nothing was raised.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: Further pavement clearance has been undertaken by volunteers and the Tree Surgeon has kindly assisted again. A suggestion was made that one of the new grants could be considered towards upgrading the electricity provision in the Village Hall and the potential use of Electricity and Water on the Village Green. Investigation will be carried out to suggest the most suitable arrangement.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : The Community Speed Watch Program is now ready to commence, with all the necessary equipment and volunteers ready to begin the program. The training will be rolled out to the other members of the group, and they are looking to undertake our first session once a date can be agreed with the minimum number of volunteers. The footpath from Harrow Street is water logged and it was agreed to report to the Footpath Warden. D Kingham confirmed that the Bramford to Twinstead pylons were not included in an Eastern Region review. No urgent matters were raised from the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at **8.30 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 5th April 2023

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authorities: -

- A) The Lake House, Stoke Road, Leavenheath - Planning permission was granted to install 20 ground mounted solar panels - **DC/22/06082**.
- B)) Planning Permission was granted for a two storey dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow at Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road - **DC/22/05099**.
- C) Non-material amendment was approved to change window size to front ground floor at 23 Wrights Way - **DC/23/01291**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Stoke by Nayland Golf Club - application for wedding venue - **DC/23/00669**.

Strong objections were issued between meetings in relation to the impact of noise on residential amenity, road safety and traffic concerns and the impact of the character of the area.

- 2) 10 Edies Lane - householder application to extend and provide a car port - **DC/23/00846**.

Objections were issued between meetings to the current application due to loss of amenity due to overlooking from the proposed balcony, loss of light and the over bearing impact on the street scene. Further the cart lodge would be too close to the road and would be intrusively visible from the street and therefore would not be consistent with the Neighbourhood Plan. Relevant Policies were quoted in the response to Planning.

- 3) Any other Urgent Planning items: R Bellenie updated the meeting of the requirements of the Speed signs conditions on The Lion Planning Decision Notice. She will follow up with Planning Enforcement and also report that the servicing of one of the locations may not be appropriate by the Parish in view of its location - **Action R Bellenie**. D Kingham has reviewed part one of the Joint Local Plan modifications consultation and proposed no comment from the Parish Council. Part 2 should be more relevant and was due later in the year.